

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00124 131148Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3792
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0124

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, US, FR, UK, UR
SUBJ: GDR COMMENTATOR'S STATEMENT ON STATUS OF EAST BERLIN

REF: A) USBERLIN 0054; B) USBERLIN 0102

1. SUMMARY: ON TELEVISION PROGRAM "AKTUELLES FORUM"
BROADCAST LAST WEEK, AND REPORTED BY RIAS, HANS JOCOBUS,
FOR YEARS A GDR RADION AND TELEVISION COMMENTATOR AND NOW
THE RECENTLY-NAMED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE EAST BERLIN
WEEKLY POLITICAL-CULTURAL NEWSPAPER "SONNTAG", ACKNOWLEDGED
INDIRECTLY THE LACT OF GDR SOVEREIGNTY OVER EAST BERLIN.
COMING AS IT DOES AFTER RECENT GDR IMPOSITION OF VISA
FOR DAY TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN, REMOVAL OF STATIONARY
EAST BERLIN-GDR BOUNDARY CHECKPOINTS, AND APPARENT
SUSPENSION OF PUBLICATION OF VERORDNUNGSBLATT FUR GROSS-
BERLIN, JACOBUS STATEMENT (HE IS CONSIDER RELI-
ABLE BEARER OF GDR PARTY LINE) MAY BE INTENDED AS A
HINT AS TO HOW FAR GDR PLANS TO GO AT THE MOMENT IN
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PAGE 02 USBERL 00124 131148Z

TAKING STEPS TOWARD INTEGRATION OF EAST BERLIN INTO
GDR. STATEMENT TOUCHES UPON ALLIED ACCESS TO EAST
BERLIN AND INDIRECT ELECTION OF EAST BERLIN VOLKSKAMMER
REPRESENTATIVES WITHOUT SUGGESTING THAT ANY CHANGE IN
THESE AREAS IS CURRENTLY ENVISIONED. AT SAME TIME,
JACOBUS REMARKS GIVE NO ASSURANCES THAT FUTURE ATTEMPTS
BY GDT TO ALTER STATUS OF EAST BERLIN WILL NOT BE

UNDERTAKEN AT OPPORTUNE TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSION, JACOBUS REPEATED STANDARD GDR ASSERTION THAT EAST BERLIN IS AN INTEGRAL CONSTITUENT PART OF GDR, AND THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IS CONCERNED "FUNDAMENTALLY (PRINZIPIELL--A QUALIFICATION LEFT OUT OF THE JAN 1 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND COMMENTARY) ONLY WITH THE PROBLEMS OF WEST BERLIN." HE ADMITTED THAT THE WEST CONSTRUES THE BERLIN LEGAL SITUATION DIFFERENTLY. INDEED, AS RIAS RECORDED HIS COMMENTS, HE ADDED QUOTE MANY GOOD CITIZENS OF THE GDR DO SO ALSO. WHEN THEY WANT TO TRAVEL FROM LICHTENBURG (IN EAST BERLIN) TO DRESDEN, THEY SAY THAT THEY WILL SHORTLY BE DRIVING TO THE REPUBLIC. IN PARIS NO ONE WOULD HAVE THE IDEA TO SAY THAT HE IS SHORTLY DRIVING TO FRANCE. OF COURSE, THERE ARE STILL CERTAIN SPECIAL RULES FOR THE WESTERN ALLIES IN THE CAPITAL. WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, U.S. SOLDIERS CREATE AN ACCIDENT ON FRANKFURTER ALLEE, WE DO NOT FETCH THE VOLKSPOLIZEI, BUT THE SOVIET MILITARY POLICE. AND WE ARE NOT FURIOUSLY INTERESTED IN HAVING THE CAPITAL'S VOLKSKAMMER REPRESENTATIVES DIRECTLY ELECTED, FOR THAT WOULD GIVE WEST BERLIN THE LONG-DESIRED PRETEXT TO ELECT ITS REPRESENTATIVES LIKEWISE DIRECTLY AND TO ALLOW THEM THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE BUNDESTAG. END QUOTE.

3. IN ITS WOLLY CURIOUS AND INVERTED WAY, JACOBUS' REMARKS ACKNOWLEDGE THE SPECIAL STATUS OF EAST BERLIN, WHILE MAKING IT APPEAR THAT ALLIED ACCESS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USBERL 00124 131148Z

INDIRECT ELECTION OF EAST BERLIN VOLKSKAMMER REPRESENTATIVES OCCUR BECAUSE THE GDR, IN ITS SOVEREIGN POWER, WANTS THINGS THAT WAY. THIS BIT OF GDR RATIONALIZATION, FAR FROM SHOWING THAT THE GDR IS CONTENT WITH THE PRESENT LEGAL STATUS OF ITS "CAPITAL", INDICATES RATHER THAT THE LACK OF GDR SOVEREIGNTY OVER EAST BERLIN REMAINS SUCH A PAINFUL ISSUE THAT IT CANNOT EVEN BE MENTIONED IN A STRAIGHT-FORWARD MANNER.
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Message Attributes

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